
BLACK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Michael S. Styles, Director

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Prepared by Carol Shifflett

Minutes

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Calvary Baptist Church, (1090 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT, 84111)

PRESENT: Theresa Walker, William Price, Verdo Thomas, Osman Ahmed (Vice Chair), Abdul Malik Muhammad, Michael Styles, Carol Shifflett (Administrative Assistant)

EXCUSED/ABSENT: Ron Stallworth, Koffi Djagba, Safiyyah Usman

GUEST: Laura Durrant, Executive Director of the Somali Bantu Association

Welcome:

- Osman Ahmed opened the meeting at 4:20 p.m. and welcomed new members that were not present at the last meeting. New Council Members introduce themselves.
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Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes reviewed. Theresa moved that we accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Theresa moved to approve the minutes, William seconded. Minutes were approved at 4:25 P.M.

Old Business/Action Items:

- **Membership Discussion:** Michael explained that there is a lack of membership on the Black Advisory Council. According to the by-laws from the current administration members are to only service 2 years. Ron Stallworth, the current Chair, was accepted into the council under the old administration. Michael has informed Ron that his term expired in 2006. Luz is currently researching for clarification. Other members have letters stating that their term expired in March of 2006. Joan Effiong is awaiting her expiration letter. Ed Turner, Salt Lake Community College, Tamu Smith, Provo citizen, and David Watkins, Utah Black Chamber of Commerce member, have all applied to fill the vacant position. Michael will inform the committee of Ron's status once he is notified.

New Business:

- **Leading to Read:** Michael informed the council that the Leading to Read has not been successful in the Black Community. After sponsoring 2 events; the only participants to attend were members of the Continental African Community. Laura Durrant, Executive Director of the Bantu Somali, brought participants to the event.
- **Refugee Concerns:** Michael updated the council on the last two meetings held in regards to refugees from the Continental African Community. The objective was to review services provided from DWS, Catholic Community Services, International Refugee Services, and the Asian Association of Utah. Sherrif allegedly gave misleading information to some members of the community. Some refugee's are under the assumption that they are entitled to services based on the Chicago and Minnesota model, which are funded by outside foundations. Utah does not have outside foundations that contribute to their refugee communities. Michael also explained the services provided by resettlement agencies.
 - Michael discussed plans by the Utah Minority Consortium to build a one stop housing complex for the refugee community to receive all resettlement services. Michael and Malik advised the council that the community is in more need of translators, ESL classes, and childcare providers. Many Continental African refugee communities are not supporters of the Utah Consortium Coalition.
 - The BAC voted to write a letter in support of DWS, IRC, the Asian Association and Laura Durrant, MSW, Executive Director of the Somali Bantu Association, and individual who has used personal finances to support the Somali Bantu community. Laura is in support of funding programs that will advance the education of the African Community. The council is more in support of finding funding for Childcare, ESL classes, and translators. William Price moved that we endorse Laura, Verdo second. Motion carried. Carol will draft a letter of endorsing Laura Durrant, and stating that the Black Advisory Council is not in support of the Utah minority Consortium and that it is a waste of taxpayer's money.

- Data Collection was discussed and the benefit it would provide to the regarding accurate figures on minority businesses.
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- **Adopt a Family:**
 - Michael has proposed a pilot program that council members provide mentors from the Black Community to visit refugees living in South Park for approximately one hour per month to listen to their concerns and discuss with the Black Chamber of Commerce during monthly meetings. Michael has titled the project Adopt-A-Family. Mentors would then bring the concerns back to the table. This program along with the letter that we are composing shows that we are endorsing ideas to support the refugees. Malik has suggested that we also contact the local sobrieties and fraternities to participate in this program. Theresa moved that we Adopt a Family, Malik seconded. Motion carried.
- **BAC Meeting Location:**
 - Michael has proposed that council members start booking venues for meetings. The following people are responsible for the schedule: Theresa in Ogden (June); Michael in SLC (July); William in SLC (Aug); Theresa in Ogden (Sept); Osman in (Aug); Theresa in Ogden (Nov); Theresa at True Vine in Kaysville (Jan). Due to the planning for the State of the Black Community, which is to take place in April 2007, all BAC meetings from Feb. –May will be in Salt Lake City. Malik in SLCC (May).
- **Transportation Security Administration and Racism:**
 - Michael received a complaint from a white woman who is married to a black man. She is being taunted and subjected to racist remarks. The constituent has sent a letter to the president of the NAACP, Jeanetta Williams. No further word has been heard. Michael has suggested that the council take action and be an advocate for the woman if the NAACP is non-responsive.
- **State of the Black Community Event (April 7, 2007)**
 - Michael has asked the council to find members in the community who have expertise in education, financial wellness, political empowerment, and health concerns to be on panels at the event.
- **Announcements:**
 - Laura Durrant gave a brief overview of her purpose and needs to continue supporting the Somali Bantu community. She feels that she could be more effective if she had funding to work out of an office outside of her home, but if that is not possible funding would be good for interpreters, gas mileage, and to pay for the refugees that assist her in the community. Interpreters are called upon a great majority of the time. Her desire is to have a small office where she can bring people in and train them in various areas to serve their community. She would entertain funding for the South Park area, but she is not sure if they have the space for a small office. She also entertained the idea of a drop in service.
- **Next Meeting:**
 - June 13, 2006. Ogden Weber Applied Technology College, Corporate Training Center (CTC), 200 N. Washington Blvd., Ogden, UT 84404.
 - Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 pm. Theresa moved and Malik seconded. Motion carried.